CLAIMS

We claim:

1.   A method of enabling file sharing over a computer network among members of a group

comprising a first user and at least one other user comprising:

displaying to the first user via a first user graphical display a shared space indicator

including a first file object associated with the shared space first group comprising the first user

and at least one other user;

receiving from the first user a request to perform a file system operation with respect to

the file object; and

sending a communication over the network to a computing device used by the at least one

other user to indicate that the shared file has been modified by the first user after such file system

operation has been performed,.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein the network is a peer-to-peer network.

3.   The method according to claim 1, further comprising presenting a graphical

representation of the file system operation to the first user in response to receiving the file system

operation request.

4.   The method according to claim 2, wherein a graphical representation of the shared file

modification is displayed on the computing device used by the at least one other user.

5.   A method for updating a shared file in a computer network including a group of

communicating computing devices in a peer-to-peer network, the method comprising

performing, at a first computing devices, a file system operation on a shared file

associated with a file icon displayed in a first shared space display area to generate an updated

shared file;

creating, at the first computing device, metadata associated with the updated shared file;

propagating, by the first computing device, the metadata associated with the updated

shared file to other group member;

obtaining, by a second computing device, the metadata associated with the updated

shared file;

determining, by the second computing device, whether the updated shared file should be

replicated on the second computing device;

downloading, by the second computing device, the updated shared file when it is

determined that the updated shared file should be replicated; and

displaying a second file icon in the shared space display area of the second computing

device indicating that the shared file has been updated.

6.   The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of displaying, by the second

computing device, a third file icon in the shared space display area indicating that the shared file

has not been updated when the updated shared file should not be replicated on the second

computing device.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the third file icon provides indication that an update to

the shared file exists.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the first shared space display area is a folder object.

9. A method for adding a shared file to a shared space indicated by a display on a

computing device in a computer network that includes a first online member of a group and at

least one other online member of the group, the method including the steps of:

   displaying to the first user via a first user display a group folder object;

   activating a file system operation through selection of a first selectable visual indicator to

move a file into the group folder object;

   creating metadata concerning the moved file; and

   transmitting the metadata to the at least one other online member of the group.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the network is a peer-to-peer network.

11.   A computer program product for facilitating an online group interaction among a first

online member of a group and at least one other online member of the group over a computer

network comprising:

a graphical user interface including a first shared space display area that acts as a target

for a first file icon, which upon entry into the first display area also becomes visible to the at

least one other online member of the group, and wherein the first file icon is associated with a

shared file having a first revision status and at least one visible task item selectable by the first

user to activate an operation to be performed with respect to the shared file in order to change the

first revision status; and

computer code disposed to notify the at least one other online member of the group of the

change to the revision status to the first shared file.